

The Bishop of Leeds and the University of
Bradford seek to appoint an Anglican Priest as

Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator & Anglican Chaplain

(half-time)



Candidate pack

Overview

This is a post for a Church of England priest with the exciting potential to further develop the place of chaplaincy in the life of the University of Bradford. As well as bringing the best of Church of England expertise in Higher Education chaplaincy, the new chaplain will be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the inter-faith chaplaincy team, which includes Faith Advisors from the main world faiths as well as other Christian denominations. The University of Bradford welcomes the role of a Church of England chaplain, as the role is well established in the life of the University, with the University committed to continuing to contribute towards the costs of the role and providing space to work in the University.

The new chaplain joins a team of Faith Advisers in the University. The team has an organisational home as part of the Student Support function, working within the Student Life & Wellbeing department under the Head of Student Life alongside the Student Life Manager and other managers within the department (e.g., Disability Manager, Counselling Manager and Mental Health Service Manager). The role combines typical Anglican University chaplaincy, working with staff and students to offer support and opportunities for prayer, study and worship, as well as being a critical friend to the university, with co-ordinating and overseeing the work of a team of Faith Advisors who provide spiritual support to students and staff and promote the place of faith in this ethnically and culturally diverse university. The new chaplain will help to develop this role further.

Bishop Toby, the Bishop of Bradford, writes: 'This is an exciting time in the life of the university chaplaincy. I am delighted that there is an opportunity to develop the contribution to the Chaplaincy and Faith Advisor team at Bradford University. I am looking for a priest with a passion for engaging with the many different aspects of the University's rich and diverse life and bringing the best of Church of England expertise in Higher Education chaplaincy to enhance the life of the University. May God bless us as we seek the next priest to come and minister amongst us'.



The City of Bradford

Bradford is a city of more than 300,000 set in West Yorkshire at the heart of Bradford Metropolitan District with a total population of 546,400 (2021 Census). Bradford was historically a wool town, and this industry has left its mark on the city in its buildings and in the diverse communities which call the city home. The end of the European wool trade in the mid twentieth century left its mark and today Bradford is a complex, challenging and rewarding place as all of us look to the future.

Diverse in more ways than one, Bradford is a place where many cultures and lifestyles continue to find ways of coexisting, where relatively affluent areas border some of the poorest communities in the country.

Bradford Metropolitan District is changing rapidly and becoming ethnically more diverse. In the 2021 Census, 61% of the population described themselves as white British. Over the 10 years since the previous census, Christians have moved from being 46% of the community to 33%. The proportion of Muslims has risen from 25% to 30.5%.

28% of Bradford's population is under 20 with 22% under 15 – the 'youngest' Metropolitan District in Britain. However, twice the national average of residents aged 16-74 have never worked. The 2010 English indices of deprivation rank the district as 26th most deprived out of 326 local authorities in England.

Bradford was known as the richest town in England in 1850 and became a thriving, enterprising city in 1897. The collapse of the European wool trade was catastrophic for Bradford, and the city is just beginning to recover. The 'mirror pool' city centre, and the new and redeveloped buildings around it, are signs of the city's commitment to the future.

The different communities of Bradford have stood strongly together against the sectarian forces seeking to divide peoples today. Building on positive responses to English Defence League provocation in 2010, and the calm that prevailed in the city while other cities experienced disturbances last summer, the strong relationships between the different faith communities have shone brightly in the responses to the recent national and international tensions.

The western side of Bradford city centre is the educational district, including the University of Bradford and Bradford College.

Full of curry houses, strong communities despite pockets of high deprivation, beautiful Victorian architecture midst the tenements, passionate and courageous people and surrounded by some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK, Bradford continues to surprise even those who claim to know it inside out!



The University

The University of Bradford was the 40th University to be created in Britain. The roots of the institution stretch back farther into the nineteenth century when Bradford was the textile capital of the world. The Mechanics' Institute was founded in 1832 and Bradford Technical College followed in 1882. Bradford Institute of Technology was established in 1957 to take over the higher education role of the Technical College, but the emphasis on resourcing the City's need for cutting-edge skills relevant to the workplace was retained and is reflected in the University's mission statement 'Making Knowledge Work' and its clear commitment to the STEM subjects – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

The University of Bradford was founded in 1966 when the then-Bradford Institute of Technology was granted a Royal Charter to become the University of Bradford - the 40th university to be created in Britain. British Prime Minister Harold Wilson became the University's first Chancellor, and the University began to grow steadily, increasing student numbers and the range of courses on offer.

The University has always been pioneering in its course provision - the first British university to offer a Peace Studies degree, the first to set up a modern business school and the first British university outside London to offer part-time degree courses. With 50 years of academic excellence, the University has continued to grow its international reputation and course provision and continues to be a pioneer in developing new course subjects, reflecting and anticipating the needs of employers, our students, and of society as a whole. The University's excellent learning and teaching has recently been recognised with the award of Silver under the Teaching Excellence Framework and over 70% of the University's courses have Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation.

For more details on our course provision visit:

📍 bradford.ac.uk/study



Chaplaincy to the University

The Diocese of Bradford resourced a full-time Chaplain to the University and the local FE institution, Bradford College, up until 2004 including a Chaplaincy Centre (Desmond Tutu House). In 2011 the Anglican Chaplaincy was taken on by a local Incumbent who spent the equivalent of a day a week on Campus.

In 2010 a review of Chaplaincy to the University was undertaken which led to one of the Residentiary Canons from Bradford Cathedral being appointed as the co-ordinating Chaplain to the University with a brief to re-establish the multi-faith team of Chaplains. In 2014, Revd Suzanne Vernon-Yorke was appointed as part-time University Chaplain and relationships with the University developed further with the Chaplaincy Team firmly established in the University and the University providing office space for the Chaplain. In 2017, Revd Andrew Howorth was appointed as the part-time Co-ordinating Chaplain. During his tenure, the Chaplaincy has been more firmly embedded within the University, finding its home with the Student Life and Wellbeing team, while also developing a respected role in relation to the university as a whole. In 2019, a new Anglican church, Fountains Church Bradford, was planted close to the university. A close working relationship has been established with their staff team, including working together to provide regular Anglican worship on campus.

The aim of the Chaplaincy/Faith Adviser service is 'to discern and make provision for the spiritual and religious needs of the whole University community'. Working with the other Chaplains and Faith Advisers, the Anglican Chaplain will work openly and proactively with staff and students of all faiths and none, and with people of all cultures and ethnic groups. They will also respond to all who come to them with discretion and sensitivity and, when appropriate, will act as a signpost to other services and sources of advice and support. To that end, the Chaplain will need to develop good relationships with staff from the Student Life & Wellbeing department (Counselling, Mental Health, Student Life, Disability) as well as academic colleagues such as Deans and Heads of Schools, the Centre for Inclusion and Diversity, the staff and sabbatical officers of the Students' Union and the various religious societies affiliated to the Students' Union (amongst many others).

Concern for spiritual and religious tolerance, celebration and freedom amongst all staff and students is central to the work of the Chaplains and Faith Advisers and the Anglican Chaplain will play an important role in representing the needs of the range of religious and cultural traditions to the University and help to ensure that students and staff have appropriate opportunities to practise their faith in ways which ensure that they and other members of the University succeed in their work and flourish as individuals.



The traditional 'gathered' model of University Chaplaincy work has to be re-imagined in this ethnically and culturally diverse context. Similarly, what is often described as 'holy loitering' though of some value, will only reach a small number of individuals. Instead, the Anglican Chaplain needs to be proactive and take the initiative in developing contacts throughout the University with departments and individuals. They need to ensure this work continues to be communicated and easily understood by the University. They will need to possess a flexible attitude towards hours of work and an appreciation that particular times of the year will be more demanding than others. The Chaplain should also expect to be called upon by the University, staff and students in times of crisis or extreme need.

In a City where faith is a topic of everyday conversation, the Anglican Chaplain will need to be a confident teacher of the Christian faith who is able to commend Christ through conversation, as well as action, and be able to respond to questions and enquiries in clear and appropriate ways.

A particular focus of work for the Anglican Chaplain will be developing religious literacy by enabling people from different religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds to meet and explore issues of religion, culture and belief. The Anglican Chaplain will work with people from across the University and City to promote the value and importance of such work in enabling people to develop as individuals but also to prepare them for employment and community leadership in multi-cultural areas such as Bradford.

The University has welcomed the development of the chaplaincy provision by the Diocese of Leeds in recent years and looks forward to welcoming the new chaplain into post. Sarah Jones, the Head of Student Life is the primary focus for the interface between University and the Diocese and will provide an introduction to university life and continuing active support as this ministry develops. The University has a chaplaincy activities space to support the delivery of inter-faith and communal activities, and the new chaplain will have a key role in ensuring this space is well used within the University.



Accommodation and expenses

The University provides working space on campus.
A housing allowance will be provided by the Diocese of Leeds.

Most office and interfaith chaplaincy expenses will be covered by the University. There is also an annual budget for other working expenses agreed with the Diocese of Leeds and approved of the Archdeacon of Bradford.

The Post

The post takes up the equivalent of three days a week, worked flexibly. Sunday duties may be required occasionally, but it is not expected that Sunday would be a core working day. The work patterns will also vary with the pattern of term times. How the work pattern develops in practice is for the new priest to determine in consultation with the University and the Archdeacon of Bradford.

The appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the DBS.

There are six weeks holiday per annum plus Bank Holidays.

Participation in annual Ministerial Development Review and in-service training is required, and an annual retreat is strongly encouraged.

There are masses of opportunities and a great deal of freedom to develop these possibilities – it's a brilliant post for someone who is comfortable being flexible, pro-active and responsive in a fluid and interesting context.

The Diocese of Leeds

The Diocese of Leeds was formed at Easter 2014. It is one of the largest dioceses in the country covering an area of around 2425 square miles and a population of around 2642400 people. The diocese comprises five Episcopal areas, each served by a suffragan Bishop. Each Episcopal Area is coterminous with an Archdeaconry.

The Diocesan Vision is 'confident Christians, growing churches, transforming communities and so helping share the Good News of Jesus Christ across our Diocese'. This Vision is embedded into the Diocesan Strategy and Goals.

The Diocese is a mix of urban and rural. The area includes the major cities of Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield; the large industrial and post-industrial towns of Halifax, Huddersfield and Dewsbury; the market towns of Harrogate, Skipton, Ripon, Richmond and Wetherby; and the deeply rural area of the Yorkshire Dales.

The Diocese is unique in having three cathedrals; Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield. The Deans of the Cathedrals work together to provide key diocesan services.

What next?

Is God calling you to this post?

To arrange a visit or conversation, contact:

Archdeacon of Bradford
Ven Dr Andy Jolley
✉ andy.jolley@leeds.anglican.org
☎ 07973 458403

or

Head of Student Life
Sarah Jones
✉ s.jones22@bradford.ac.uk
☎ 01274 233346

Application packs are available from:

Carmel Dylak
✉ carmel.dylak@leeds.anglican.org
☎ 0113 353 0290

or

Via the Diocese of Leeds website:

📌 leeds.anglican.org/vacancies

Closing Date:
Sunday 15 June

Interviews will be held on Thursday 26 June followed by a further meeting with the Diocesan Bishop prior to a final offer of the post. An enhanced DBS will be required.



UNIVERSITY of
BRADFORD